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DECADAL VARIABILITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC OCEAN INFERRED FROM SATELLITE DATA AND ECCO ASSIMILATION

The nearly one-and-a-half decades of coincident satellite observations of sea surface height (SSH) and vector wind are used to describe the decadal variability of the Indo-Pacific region along with and an ECCO ocean assimilation product (http://ecco-group.org). A near-coherent phase change of decadal SSH and wind is found over much of the Indo-Pacific region. The changes in the tropical Pacific tends to lead those in other areas. The trade winds in the Pacific and Indian Oceans are anti-correlated to each other. Associated with this is the anti-correlated variability in the strength of the shallow meridional overturning cells in the two oceans (the subtropical cells). Horizontal gyre circulations in the subtropical and subpolar regions also experience near-coherent variation in their strengths. Atmospheric and oceanic linkages of these variations are discussed.

http://ecco.jpl.nasa.gov/external

Oral presentation

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